

Message Text

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DEPT. (OES) PASS TO DR. JOSEPH R. QUINN, NIH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, JA

SUBJECT: HOST GOVERNMENT CONSTRAINTS ON SCIENTISTS DOING RESEARCH ON
DNA/RNA RECOMBINANTS

REF: A. STATE 298844 B. TOKYO 10056

1. BECUASE OF APPARENTLY INCREASING INTEREST IN SUBJECT, EMBASSY
ESCALATED ITS INQUIRY TO HIGHER LEVEL IN GOJ THAN WHEN EARLIER INQUIR
Y
MADE AND RESULTS REPORTED (REFTEL B).

2. CONTACT MADE WITH DR. TAKASHI FUJII, MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER'S
COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHO SPECIALIZES IN LIFE SCIENCES
MATTERS FOR COUNCIL. HE STATES THAT GENETIC MAINPULATION LIVELY
SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AMONG PROFESSIONAL GROUPS (SOCIETY OF JAPANESE
VIROLOGISTS, SCIENCE COUNCIL OF JAPAN, ETC.) AS RESULT OF INFLUENCE
FROM U.S. WHERE TALK ON PROHIBITING SUCH RESEARCH IS GOING ON. GOJ
IS UNDER PRESSURE TO MAKE POLICY STATEMENT BUT INTERNAL DISCUSSIONS
STILL GOING ON IN PM'S COUNCIL AND IS SCIENCE DELIBERATION COUNCIL
(ADVISORY BODY TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION). DR. FUJII HAS TALKED TO
DR. KAKU WATANABE, LEADING JAPANESE MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST, AND THEY
SHARE VIEW THAT RATHER THAN HAVING GOJ BAN RESEARCH, JAPANESE
SCIENTISTS SHOULD TAKE RESPONSIBILITY OF EXERCISING GREAT CARE IN
CONDUCT OFDNA/RNA RECOMBINANT RESEARCH, USING WELL EQUIPPED AN
CONTROLLED LABORATORIES.

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